



Joint Information Center

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

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Slow Gains in Power Restoration

Joint Information Center, Grand Island, NE -

Another community was removed from the list remaining out of service on Friday when the town of Heartwell was connected to generator power on Friday afternoon. This leaves Loomis, Funk, Inland, Kenesaw, Ragan, Riverton, Upland, Atlanta and Odessa still without power.

The number of communities without power has fluctuated as needs have been evaluated. Atlanta and Trumbull were recently added, but Trumbull was soon removed from the list as the town was connected to line power. This leaves nine communities still out of power, but public power districts are confident that all communities will be provided with power from generators or from line connections by the end of the day on Sunday, January 7.

Another transmission line was placed into service on Friday, running from Central City to Grand Island. Although this addition does not provide service to new customers, it increases the reliability of the transmission system.

There had been no word regarding the Governor's request for an expedited federal disaster declaration at close of business on Friday. That request was based on preliminary figures regarding damages to 57 Nebraska counties. A detailed damage assessment is yet to come.

As Friday morning, Elkhorn Rural Public Power District had cut the number of residents without power in half from the Thursday total. About 850 customers remain without electric service in Elkhorn's service agency.

North Central Public Power District, headquartered in Creighton, has less than 50 residential and commercial customers without power at this time. However, the North Central system is fragile and many stock wells and seasonal services remain without power. The total includes 18 customers in Knox County; 20 in Antelope County; and 12 in Pierce County.